(\* There are seven Export Processing Zones in the country at Kandla Gujarat), Santacruz (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

[English]

## **Production of Cement**

- 4272. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the cement factories in the country are facing difficulties in the production of cement for export purposes:
  - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation;
- (d) whether the Government propose to set up cement plants in various parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; and
  - (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). While the Indian cement industry is fully capable of producing cement of exportable quality, cement factories have been facing problems like inadequate availability of infrastructure at ports for storage, bulk handling and transportation, high cost of transportation from the factory to the port, unattractive international prices and difficulty in moving cement/clinker to Bangladesh by land route through rail and road:

(c) After interaction with the cement industry, the concerned administrative Ministries have already been apprised of the problem for appropriate remedial action. Railway are allocating wagons on priority for export of

cement plants to set up dedicated jetties wherever possible for facilitating export.

Written Answers

- (d) No. Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

## Financial Assistance to Water Supply Projects

4273. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of water supply and drainage projects in the country, State-wise, particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat which have been provided with financial assistance by Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation and other Government Financial Institutions during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released by each of these corporations/ financial institutions during the above period, Statewise and year-wise; and
- (c) the details of the financial assistance given by these financial institutions for the purpose during the current year till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

## **Photo Identity Cards**

- 4274. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:
- (a) the progress made in the matter of preparing Photo Identity cards of the voters in the country so far, State-wise;
- (b) the names of the States where progress pertaining to pre-paration of Photo Identity cards is very slow or negligible;
- (c) whether the Government propose to fix a timelimit for preparation of photo identity cards in all the States; and
  - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b). A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d). The Election Commission had originally fixed 30th November, 1994 as the deadline for completion of the scheme of issue of identity cards to electors. This deadline was, however, extended from time to time and was last extended upto 31st March, 1996. No fresh deadline has yet been laid by the Commission.